

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 5 September 2023

Roberton Hall

with

Zoom Input

AGENDA

1 Present

- 1.1 Malcolm Muir, Irene Riddell, Nicci Hill, Gordon Wilson, Alison Mitchell, Anne Jefferies (Zoom),

Councillors

Cllr Allison, Cllr Barker.

1.2 Apologies

Liz Steele, Clare Symonds, Cllr McAllan

2 Minute of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- 2.1 Minute approved – Proposed by MM, seconded by IR.

3 Treasurer's Report

- 3.1 AJ spoke to her report.

Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £411.17

	Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
▼	13 Jul 2023	📄	000122		-£300.00	£411.17
▼	10 Jul 2023	👤	SOUTH LANARKSHIRE	+£444.70		£711.17

DCC General account balance: £35932.32

	Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
▼	07 Aug 2023	📄	000376		-£250.00	£35,932.32
▼	01 Aug 2023	📄	000377		-£250.00	£36,182.32

Activity since July meeting

Closed out 2 grants after receipts received

Issued 3 cheques minuted in July

Actions

Complete Glenkerie end of year accounts to release 2023-4 monies

Identify initiatives for Priestgill wind farm community monies

Minuting hall hire for a second Abington meeting re Abington Hall future, likely around £70. Cheque will be issued once exact amount is known.

Issue cheques for:

Hire of Old School House for £52, 21st August for the Abington Hall potential asset transfer public meeting, payable to Anne Jefferies

Newsletter printing for £73.16, payable to Liz Steele

Microgrant applications:

Roberton Soup Kitchens £150 (Clyde Extension)

Abington Gaming Group £500 (Clyde)

Coulter SWI Activities £490 (Clyde)

With Others

Abington coronation bench of max £500 from the SSE coronation grant funding, will be issued once SLC confirm bench placement and the order can be placed

Grant Monies Remaining (excludes Actions amounts)

CWFF: £5667.68 remaining of the 2023-4 grant

Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £97.32 remaining of the 2022-23 grant

Clyde Extension: £1015 remaining of the 2022-23 grant

Other grants: £5650

Clyde Extension DCC-directed pot: £30,271.40 remaining of £143,000 allocation

4 Grants

4.1 Three grant applications to consider

4.2 Roberton – application for £150 for setting up soup lunches – Clyde Extension Community Fund (AM recused herself from the vote)

Coulter SWI – membership - £490 - Clyde Community Fund

Abington Game Club - £500 – Clyde Community Fund. NC was reminded by AJ that she could not claim for expenses already incurred. (NC recused herself from the vote)

All three grant applications were approved unanimously.

5 Planning Issues

5.1 GW referred to application in Abington to make changes to the existing shop and reminded the DCC about the application for extension of sub-station at Elvanfoot for battery installation.

5.2 MM referred to the radio mast application for Coulter Glen which he had concerns about. Apparently, the land-owner was not consulted prior to the application and he felt that there were other more appropriate sites for the mast. However, MM thought it would proceed as it was being considered under delegated powers.

6 Development Trusts

- 6.1 GW spoke to his paper ‘Development Trusts – Discussion Paper’. He advised that he and LS have had a series of meetings, one with Robin Winstanley (Banks Group) and Pat Mavor (WHAT IF?), another with John Main, DTAS, and LS had recently met with Colin McMillan (SSE – Clyde Extension) to progress and understand the concept of a Development Trust and what it may mean for DCC. He advised that if the DCC wanted to form a trust the trust should be owned and managed by local people with an aim of regenerating the community through local projects. In addition, while a trust has no legal basis in law it would be important that the trust become incorporated as a company limited by guarantee to minimize any direct liability of those who become directors. GW also underlined the fact that the DCC should be clear about what the aims and intentions of the trust should be as this will form the type of trust that develops e.g. whether it should apply for charitable status or not.
- 6.2 There then followed discussion during which MM said that it would be good to have a link between the trust and DCC. AJ felt the trust was the next logical step but there could be a lot of admin in setting one up – including policies and procedures. It was suggested that a trust could perhaps get involved in the impasse over action to resolve the Lamington flooding issue. It was recognized that the trust would need to be arms-length from the DCC, with transparent membership. GW stated that we would need to leaflet the area and set up local meetings in each village to encourage people to assist in setting up a trust.
- 6.3 Following further discussion it was agreed that GW/LS could move to the next step and consider a script for the overarching aims and Articles of Association of a trust and circulate these via MM.

7 Bodinglee Questionnaire Responses

- 7.1 MM gave an overview of the recent Bodinglee wind farm questionnaire, which had fewer returns than the one for Grayside. The clear message was one of over-capacity given the number of turbines already in the area. Given the spread of responses it was agreed that the DCC formal response would be that it does not object to and does not support the proposed wind farm. AM stated that 50% of the 100 households in Robertson had replied.

8 Wind Farm Developments

- 8.1 Grayside – no progress. MM advised that 250m high turbines in Coulter Fell would be unacceptable. MM advised of concern that the Scottish Govt is driving a ‘coach and horses’ through local planning agreements. Coulter Fell/Glen still retain some natural vegetation.

Bodinglee – at Planning stage.

Andershaw West – GW advised that developer hopes to make Planning at the end of 2023.

Kennoxhead – no update

Little Gala – MM commented that this is basically an extension of Bodinglee in that it comes into the valley. No update.

9 Flooding in Coulter and Lamington

- 9.1 MM advised he had put in a n application to fund the purchase of gel sacs to prevent future flooding. He wants to buy an 8'-10' container to store anti-flood gear as a community flood store. David Malloy (SLC) has some funding – IR to ask DM to check costs.
- 9.2 IR said it's not so easy in Lamington as no space to store a container. MM advised that when Coulter is flooded so is the whole of the valley. IR stated that she would check out a container site. She advised that the Council survey has now been issued and its main suggestion is that a bund is required between the burn and the back of the houses to prevent future flooding. She attended a meeting with Justin (landowner) and others to talk through the report but he was not forthcoming. BEAR and Transport Scotland are going to lay down a drain to take road water to the burn. The bund may cost £42,000 gross based on the survey report, which is less than the costs of the individual home owners doing work at their own properties.
- 9.3 MM stated it appears the problem is SEPA and landowners not getting things done. AJ advised that the private land ownership is an issue to getting a resolution. IR said that there has been a lack of enforcement. Cllr Allison referred to the fact that SEPA's focus is water quality and that may not be the issue here. MM stated that upstream debris is good as it slows up the speed of the flow – down-stream debris is bad as it creates flooding. There are central govt and enforcement issues. IR advised that box barriers are to be fitted. Cllr A asked if there may be a Planning issue for these. IR stated that the surveyor had spoken to Planning and no issue was raised. Cllr A suggested this be checked. GW said she could contact Tony Flynn in Planning and that a Planning application could also be made for the bund. MM stated this would be a good idea as the landowners would be asked as consultees about their view on it. This might move things forward. There was then some discussion about the grants that could be applied for. The Clyde extension has used its allocation but REF could be applied for.

10 Community Development Worker Report (sent by email)

Meetings/Initiatives:

Unpaid Work Services

To undertake regular litter picks in our area. As all the roads in the vicinity are main roads the process can only happen if there is traffic management with lane closures etc. As this costs money for SLC, the project idea can't proceed.

Anne suggested the possibility of work in gardens for those unable to do the work themselves. I'll ask the question.

Abington Hall Public Meeting

12 people attended the meeting on Mon 21st Aug. Valuable to confirm the hall is not viable in the future for single community bookings but needs a more sustainable idea.

Requests for a 2nd public meeting - planned for Sunday 17th September. Meeting information flyers will again be delivered to all households in Abington.

Healthy Valleys Active Travel

A come and try electric bike session being planned for Saturday 14th October in Crawfordjohn.

Brain Whittle MSP

Gordon and I attended Brian's drop in surgery to highlight the planned substation at the Red Moss plus gave copies of the windfarm maps and spreadsheet to illustrate the current situation in Duneaton. Brain said he would raise awareness of our concerns.

Meeting with Gordon Wilson

We meet regularly to discuss outcomes of meetings and productive ways forward on behalf of DCC, mainly related to planning applications, windfarm community funds and the idea of forming a Development Trust.

DTAS: Meeting with John Main (support officer for our area)

Gordon and I had an online meeting with John as an introduction to the pathway for setting up a development trust. Gordon has since published notes from the meeting which he has shared with you all.

Age Scotland

I met with Age Scotland's Community Worker for our area. Ann shared information on a multitude of benefits for the over 50's in need which I'll share. Arranging for another AS project worker to deliver bingo and other community-based sessions.

Community shopping bus trips with Pearl Jones

The possibility of applying for more funding to continue the shopping bus trips.

Online meeting with Jennifer Hunter from the Scottish Community Alliance

Jennifer is researching community benefits from energy schemes. Interesting session which took us beyond her original set of questions. She's requested a 2nd interview.

Monthly meeting with Colin McMillon, SSE Clyde extension fund manager

Colin is particularly interested in the idea of a new Development Trust for our area.

11 Matters Arising and Outstanding Issues

- 11.1 Abington Hall Meeting – NH advised there had been 12 attendees at the meeting. Ian Mulholland (SLC) outlined the situation and process of asset transfer. Likely there will be another meeting. Cllr A advised that asset transfer had to show sustainability. Cllr B said that if the asset needs repairs it may not be used and considered a target for transfer. AM advised that in her experience at Roberton, even though the hall is being promoted it is unlikely to meet the Council's income target. AJ suggested that given all that has happened in recent years in Abington there are no new people to take the transfer forward. MM referred to the potential of the development trust which could provide options.

- 11.2 Bus Service – safety issue – Cllr B informed the DCC that there had been an issue with the bus at Pettinain. A mother and child had asked a bus to stop at a site opposite a bus stop but as it was not a designated stop it did not. The bus company stated that the bus could only stop at a designated stop for safety reasons.

12 Date of Next Meeting

- 13.1 The next meeting of DCC is at Robertson Hall on 3 October 2023 at 7.30pm.
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